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ABSTRACT

This pamphlet is the first in a series designed to provide a compilation of selected demographic, social, economic, and other statistical data relating to selected populations. Topics covered here (in both discussion and table/graph format) include Black population growth and distribution, residence, income gain, poverty rate increase, labor force participation, occupational distribution, representation in selected occupations, occupational differences, farm population declines, school enrollment, educational attainment, female headed households, living arrangements of children, increased divorce ratio, life expectancy and mortality, fertility rates and birth expectations, out-of-wedlock births, housing ownership, voting age population and voter turnout, and military services. References and sources are also presented, and reliability of the data is discussed. (CJM)

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SPECIAL PUBLICATION
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America's Black Population: 1970 to 1982

A Statistical View

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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America's Black Population: 1970 to 1982

A Statistical View

William C. Matney

Dwight L. Johnson

Issued July 1983

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PREFACE

This publication is the first of a planned series prepared jointly by the Public Information Office and the Ethnic and Racial Statistics Program Area, Population Division, Bureau of the Census. Similar publications on the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian and Pacific Islander; and Spanish origin populations are being planned for this series. The purpose of the publications is to provide a compilation of selected demographic, social, economic, and other statistical data relating to these populations in a single document.

The PIO/POP–83 Series will present data compiled from several sources, including the 1980 Census of Population and Housing, available statistics from the Bureau's current surveys, and other government agencies.

As a reference document, this publication is designed to enhance the use of Census Bureau's data on the Nation's Black population.

INTRODUCTION

Statistics from the latest Bureau Current Population Surveys (CPS) and the 1980 census show improvement in income levels of Black married-couple families, educational attainment and school enrollment, and home ownership among Blacks during the 1970's. But the data also reveal setbacks influenced by high Black unemployment, sharply increased divorce and separation rates, and a rise in family households maintained by Black females.

A recessionary economy coupled with inflation eroded both Black and White family income during the 1970 decade and together, they were major factors contributing to an increase in poverty among Blacks, especially women.

The disproportionate impact on Blacks of the economic downturn beginning in 1974 and of the relatively sluggish economy continuing through 1982, effectively brought to a halt the momentum of overall social and economic improvement apparent at the beginning of the decade.

POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

Between 1970 and 1980, the Black population increased by 17.3 percent, from 22.6 million to 26.5 million. In 1980, Blacks represented approximately 12 percent of the total population.

In 1980, Blacks constituted more than 20 percent of the population in seven States—Mississippi (35 percent), South Carolina (30 percent), Louisiana (29 percent), Georgia (27 percent), Alabama (26 percent), Maryland (23 percent), and North Carolina (22 percent). Twelve States had Black populations of 1 million or more, an increase of three more States (Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia) from 1970.

New York had the largest Black population of any city (1,784,357) in 1980, followed by Chicago (1,197,000), Detroit (758,939), Philadelphia (638,878), and Los Angeles (505,210) (table 1).

Of the 100 cities with the largest Black population, the city with the highest percentage was East St. Louis, Ill. (96 percent). In Washington D.C., about 70 percent of the population was Black in 1980, about the same as in 1970, although the total population in the city actually dropped during the decade.

The traditional large Black migration from the South to points North and West appeared to end in the 1970 decade. Between 1975 and 1980, about 415,000 Blacks moved to the South, whereas, only about 220,000 left, thereby reversing the longstanding Black exodus from the South. In 1980, the proportion of the total Black population residing in the South was 53 percent, the same as in 1970.

Table 1. **100 Cities With the Largest Black Population by Rank: 1980**

Rank	City	Black population		Total population
		Number	Percent of total	
	United States	26,495,025	11.7	226,545,805
1	New York, NY	1,784,337	25.2	7,071,639
2	Chicago, IL	1,197,000	39.8	3,005,072
3	Detroit, MI	758,939	63.1	1,203,339
4	Philadelphia, PA	638,878	37.8	1,688,210
5	Los Angeles, CA	505,210	17.0	2,966,850
6	Washington, DC	448,906	70.3	638,333
7	Houston, TX	440,346	27.6	1,595,138
8	Baltimore, MD	431,151	54.8	786,775
9	New Orleans, LA	308,149	55.3	557,515
10	Memphis, TN	307,702	47.6	646,356
11	Atlanta, GA	282,911	66.6	425,022
12	Dallas, TX	265,594	29.4	904,078
13	Cleveland, OH	251,347	43.8	573,822
14	St. Louis, MO	206,386	45.6	453,085
15	Newark, NJ	191,745	58.2	329,248
16	Oakland, CA	159,281	46.9	339,337
17	Birmingham, AL	158,224	55.6	284,413
18	Indianapolis, IN	152,626	21.8	700,807
19	Milwaukee, WI	146,940	23.1	636,212
20	Jacksonville, FL	137,324	25.4	540,920
21	Cincinnati, OH	130,467	33.8	385,457
22	Boston, MA	126,229	22.4	562,994
23	Columbus, OH	124,880	22.1	564,871
24	Kansas City, MO	122,699	27.4	448,159
25	Richmond, VA	112,357	51.3	219,214
26	Gary, IN	107,644	70.8	151,953
27	Nashville-Davidson, TN	105,942	23.3	455,651
28	Pittsburgh, PA	101,813	24.0	423,938
29	Charlotte, NC	97,627	31.0	314,447
30	Jackson, MS	95,357	47.0	202,895
31	Buffalo, NY	95,116	26.6	357,870
32	Norfolk, VA	93,987	35.2	266,979
33	Fort Worth, TX	87,723	22.8	385,164
34	Miami, FL	87,110	25.1	346,865
35	San Francisco, CA	86,414	12.7	678,974
36	Shreveport, LA	84,627	41.1	205,820
37	Louisville, KY	84,080	28.2	298,451
38	Baton Rouge, LA	80,088	36.5	219,419
39	San Diego, CA	77,700	8.9	875,538
40	Dayton, OH	75,016	36.9	203,371
41	Mobile, AL	72,568	36.2	200,452
42	Montgomery, AL	69,660	39.2	177,857
43	Savannah, GA	69,241	49.0	141,390
44	Flint, MI	66,124	41.4	159,611
45	East Orange, NJ	64,626	83.2	77,690
46	Tampa, FL	63,835	23.5	271,523
47	Rochester, NY	62,332	25.8	241,741
48	Jersey City, NJ	61,954	27.7	223,532
49	Toledo, OH	61,750	17.4	354,635
50	Compton, CA	60,812	74.8	81,286

Table 1. **100 Cities With the Largest Black Population by Rank: 1980**—Con.

Rank	City	Black population		Total population
		Number	Percent of total	
51	Denver, CO	59,252	12.0	492,365
52	Oklahoma City, OK	58,702	14.6	403,213
53	Columbus, GA	57,884	34.2	169,441
54	San Antonio, TX	57,700	7.3	785,880
55	Inglewood, CA	54,010	57.3	94,245
56	Chattanooga, TN	53,716	31.7	169,565
57	Winston-Salem, NC	52,968	40.2	131,885
58	East St. Louis, IL	52,751	95.6	55,200
59	Akron, OH	52,719	22.2	237,177
60	Macon, GA	52,068	44.5	116,896
61	Greensboro, NC	51,373	33.0	155,642
62	Little Rock, AR	51,091	32.2	158,461
63	Durham, NC	47,474	47.1	100,831
64	Portsmouth, VA	47,185	45.1	104,577
65	Paterson, NJ	47,091	34.1	137,970
66	Seattle, WA	46,755	9.5	493,846
67	Hartford, CT	46,186	33.9	136,392
68	Newport News, VA	45,584	31.5	144,903
69	Camden, NJ	45,008	53.0	84,910
70	Beaumont, TX	43,270	36.6	118,102
71	Tulsa, OK	42,594	11.8	360,919
72	Austin, TX	42,118	12.2	345,496
73	Hampton, VA	42,072	34.3	122,617
74	Trenton, NJ	41,860	45.4	92,124
75	Raleigh, NC	41,227	27.4	150,255
76	St. Petersburg, FL	41,000	17.2	238,647
77	Kansas City, KS	40,826	25.3	161,087
78	Long Beach, CA	40,738	11.3	361,334
79	Columbia, SC	40,703	40.2	101,208
80	New Haven, CT	40,235	31.9	126,109
81	Youngstown, OH	38,481	33.3	115,436
82	Orlando, FL	38,429	30.0	128,291
83	Omaha, NE	37,864	12.0	314,255
84	Phoenix, AZ	37,804	4.8	789,704
85	Sacramento, CA	36,866	13.4	275,741
86	Wilmington, DE	35,858	51.1	70,195
87	Richmond, CA	35,799	47.9	74,676
88	Albany, GA	35,297	47.7	74,059
89	Mount Vernon, NY	32,469	48.7	66,713
90	Charleston, SC	32,318	46.5	69,510
91	Fort Lauderdale, FL	32,225	21.0	153,279
92	East Cleveland, OH	31,980	86.5	36,957
93	Chesapeake, VA	31,600	27.6	114,486
94	Wichita, KS	30,200	10.8	279,272
95	Bridgeport, CT	29,898	21.0	142,546
96	Huntsville, AL	29,535	20.7	142,513
97	San Jose, CA	29,186	4.6	629,442
98	Prichard, AL	29,129	73.7	39,541
99	Grand Rapids, MI	28,602	15.7	181,843
100	Pontiac, MI	28,532	37.2	76,715

RESIDENCE

In 1980, about 60 percent of the Black population lived in central cities, an increase of 13 percent during the 1970's, but a sharp drop from the 32-percent increase recorded during the 1960's. In 1980, although a majority of Blacks still resided in central cities, the Black population outside central cities grew by 43 percent during the 1970's. Even with this large percentage increase, by 1980 Blacks comprised only 6 percent of the total population outside central cities (chart 1).

SOME INCOME GAIN

While income for all Black families continued to lag behind that of the general population, Black married-couple families registered a 6.9-percent gain in real median income between 1971 and 1981, improving from $18,370 to $19,620 in constant dollars. The comparable figures for White married-couple families were $25,130 in 1971 and $25,470 in 1981 (charts 2).

While the income levels for Black married-couple families was climbing during the decade of the 1970's, this group experienced a decline in the proportion they constituted of all Black families, dropping from 64 percent in 1972 to 55 percent in 1982.

In real terms, the 1981 median income for all Black families ($13,270) dropped 8.3 percent from 1971 and dropped 5.2 percent between 1980 and 1981. Median income for White families in 1981 was $23,520, down only 2.7 percent from 1980 when adjusted for inflation (chart 3).

In 1971, the median income for Black families was 60 percent of the median income of White families—$14,460 versus $23,970. By 1981, this ratio was 56 percent.

According to survey data, the decline in Black family median income reflects, in part, the increase in the proportion of families maintained by females with no husband present and the lack of income gains for these families. Among Blacks, such families totaled 2.6 million in 1982 or about 41 percent of all Black families, up from the 32 percent in 1972. The median income for families maintained by Black female householders with no husband present was $7,510 in 1981, about 38 percent of the median of Black married-couple families ($19,620).

POVERTY RATE INCREASES

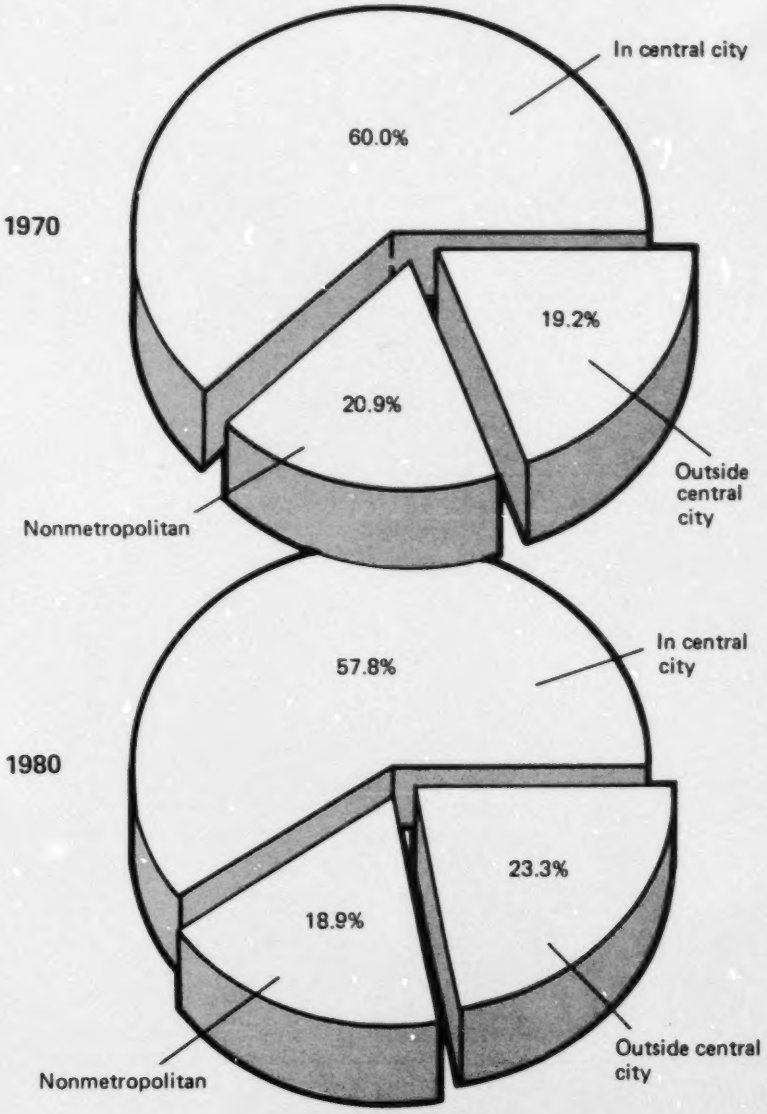
Persistent inflation, a stagnant economy, and family dissolution were reflected in the rising number of persons classified as poor between 1979 and 1981. During this period, the total number of persons in poverty increased by 5.4 million.

In 1970, about 8 million Blacks (34 percent) and 17 million Whites (10 percent) had incomes below the poverty level. By 1981, the number increased to 9 million for Blacks (34 percent) and 22 million for Whites (11 percent). (The poverty level for 1981 was $9,287 for a family of four) (chart 4).

During the 1970's an increasing concentration of the poor in families maintained by females was especially evident among Blacks. The number of poor

CHART 1.

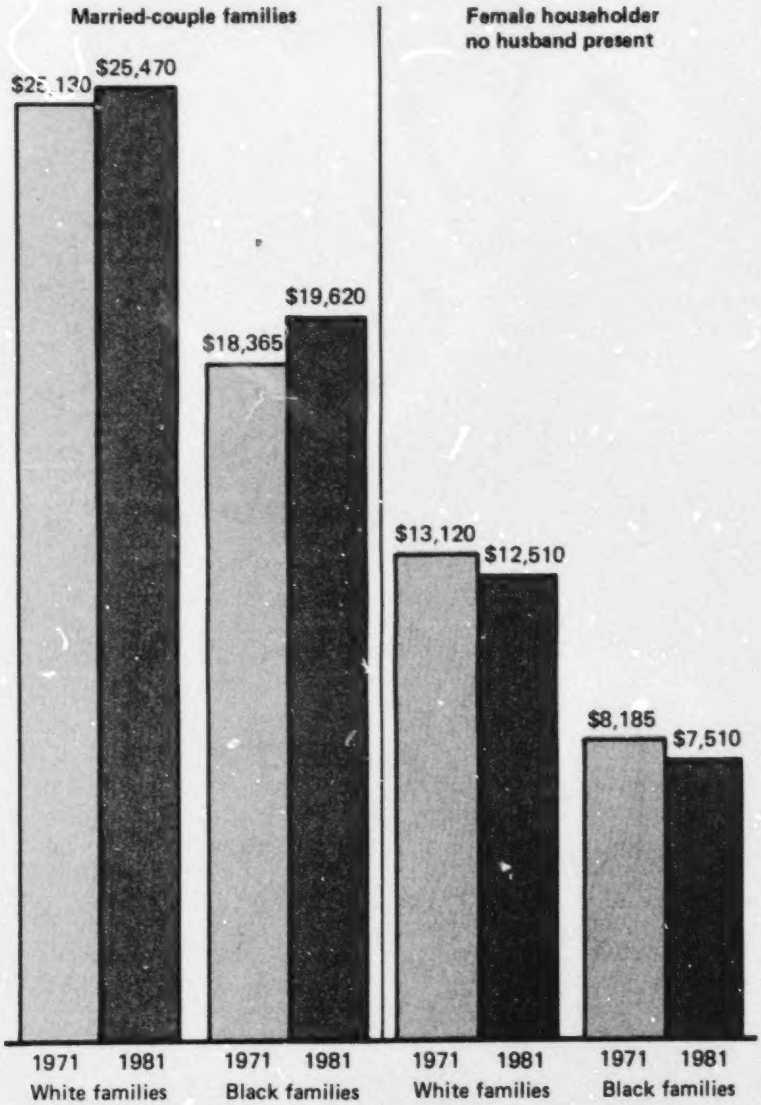
Distribution of the Black Population by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Residence: 1970 and 1980



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CHART 2.

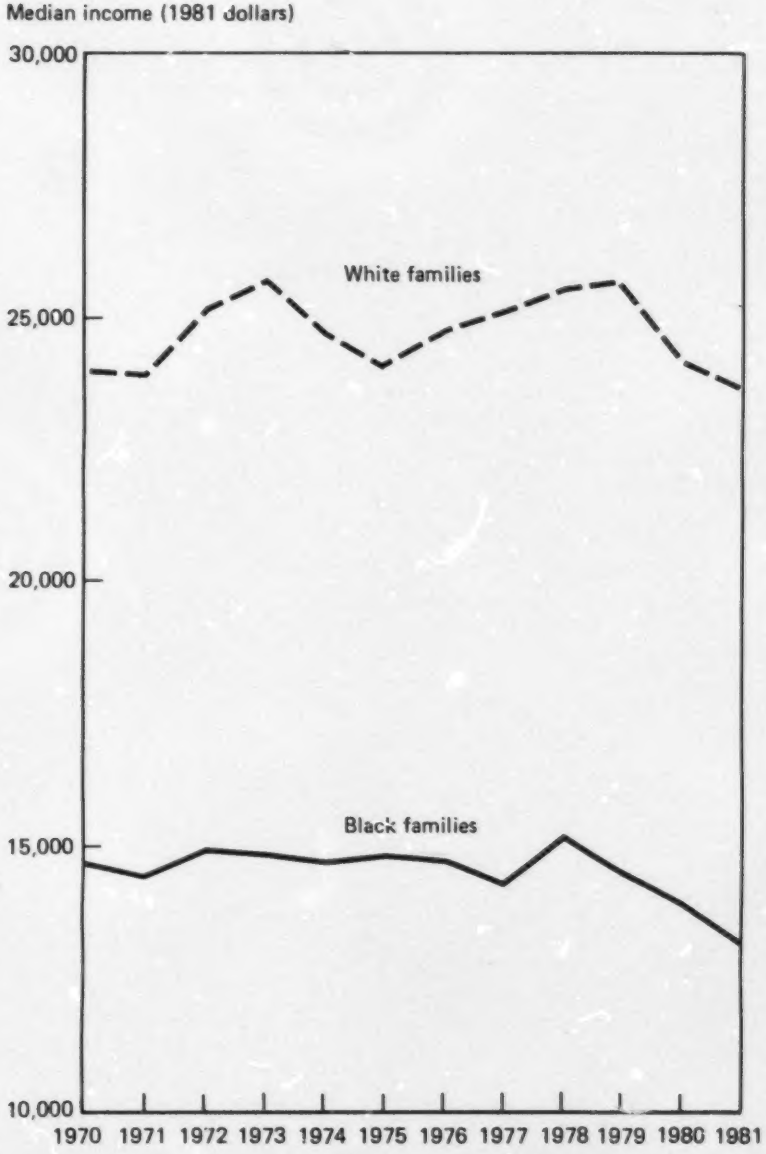
Median Family Income by Type of Family and Race of Householder: 1971 and 1981
(1981 dollars)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CHART 3.

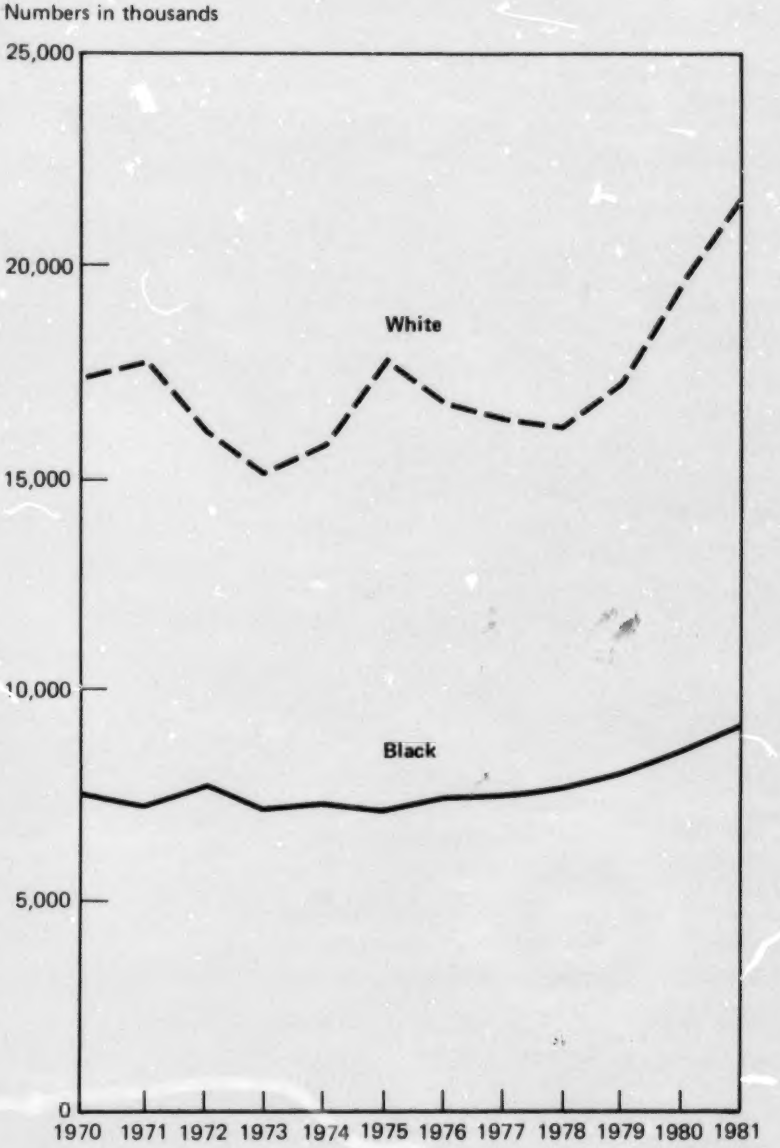
Median Family Income by Race of Householder: 1970 to 1981



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CHART 4.

Number of Persons Below Poverty Level by Race: 1970 to 1981



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Black families with a female householder rose from 834,000 in 1970 to 1.4 million in 1981. These families accounted for 70 percent of all poor Black families in 1981, substantially up from 56 percent in 1970.

LABOR FORCE

About 11 million Black persons were in the civilian labor force in 1982, an increase of 2.7 million over 1972—a 31 percent increase. Also between 1972 and 1982, the number of employed Black persons grew by 1.4 million (19 percent), whereas, the number of unemployed Black persons increased by 1.3 million (140 percent) (900,000 in 1972 to 2.1 million in 1982).

In 1982, the labor force participation rate for Black men and women 16 years and over was 70 and 54 percent, respectively. Black men in the labor force slightly outnumbered Black women (5.8 million to 5.5 million).

The unemployment rate for Blacks in 1972 was twice that for Whites (10.3 percent versus 5.0 percent). By 1982, when the unemployment rate for both Blacks and Whites was the highest since anytime in post-World War II history, the Black unemployment rate was still double that of Whites—18.9 percent compared to 8.6 percent (chart 5).

Among Black teenagers, the unemployment rate reached 48 percent in 1982, 28 percentage points higher than that of White teenagers (20.4 percent). The rate was higher for Black male teens (48.9 percent) than for females (47.1 percent).

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

According to 1980 census statistics, Blacks in the experienced civilian labor force were concentrated in three summary occupational groupings:[1] operators, fabricators, and laborers (27 percent); technical, sales, and administrative support (24 percent); and service occupations (23 percent).

The proportion of Blacks in the experienced civilian labor force in "managerial and professional" and "precision production, craft, and repair" occupations was 13 and 9 percent, respectively. Blacks were least concentrated in "farming, forestry, and fishing" occupations (2 percent) (table 2).

In 1980, there were 10.6 million Blacks 16 years old and over in the civilian labor force. The civilian labor force includes persons who were employed or looking for work, but unemployed in 1980. The occupation text and tables presented here are for the "recent-experienced" civilian labor force, and is defined as persons employed in 1980 or unemployed having civilian work experience between 1975 and 1980.

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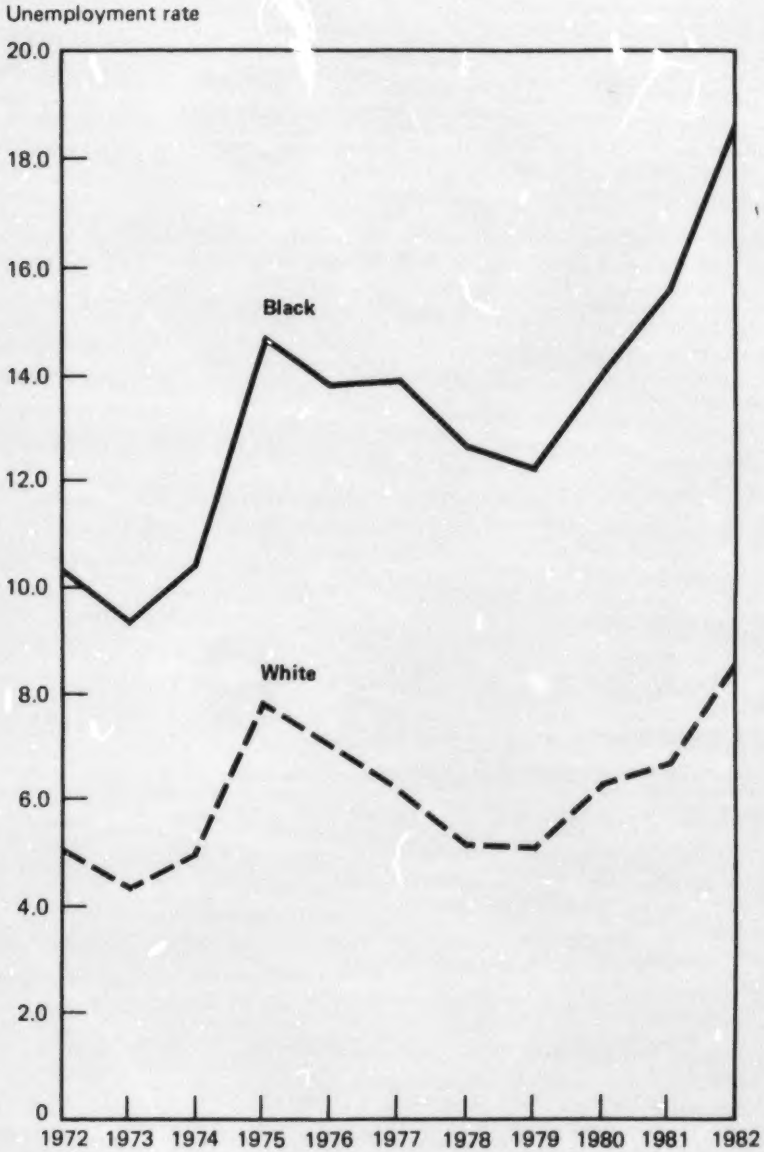
[1] The 1980 census occupational classification system is the first based on 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system which was developed by Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards for greater consistency of occupation data among government sources. Therefore, these data are not strictly comparable to occupation statistics collected in the 1970 and previous censuses.

CHART 5.

Unemployment Rates of the Population by Race: 1972 to 1982 Annual Averages



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Table 2. **Occupation Distribution of the Experienced Civilian Labor Force Population 16 Years and Over for the Black Population in the United States, by Sex: 1980**

Occupation	Total population	Black population		
		Both sexes	Men	Women
Civilian labor force.....(number)..	104,449,817	10,582,436	5,330,792	5,251,644
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty.....	21.7	13.0	10.8	15.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial...	9.9	4.8	5.3	4.4
Professional specialty.....	11.8	8.2	5.5	10.9
Technical, sales, and administrative support..	29.6	24.1	14.4	34.0
Technicians and related support.....	2.9	2.4	1.8	3.1
Sales.....	9.8	5.0	3.8	6.3
Administrative support, including clerical..	16.8	16.7	8.8	24.6
Services.....	13.0	22.6	16.8	28.6
Private households.....	.6	2.4	.2	4.7
Protective services.....	1.5	1.8	3.0	.6
Services, except protective and household...	10.9	18.4	13.6	23.3
Farming, forestry, and fishing.....	2.9	2.0	3.4	.6
Precision productions, crafts, and repairs....	13.0	8.8	15.2	2.3
Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	19.1	27.3	37.7	16.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	9.7	13.8	14.8	12.7
Transportation and material moving.....	4.6	5.9	10.7	.9
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	4.9	7.6	12.1	3.1
Unemployed, no civilian work experience since 1975.....	.7	2.1	1.8	2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population/EEO Special File.

REPRESENTATION IN SELECTED OCCUPATIONS

In 1980, Blacks were overrepresented in certain occupations. For example, although Blacks comprised about 10 percent of the total civilian labor force, they constituted 14 percent of all operators, fabricators, and laborers and 18 percent of all service workers.

In contrast, Blacks were underrepresented in managerial and professional specialty occupations (6 percent) and technical, sales, and administrative support occupations (8 percent).

Differential representation was more evident at the detailed occupational level. For example, Blacks accounted for over one-half (54 percent) of all the workers who were private household cleaners and servants, and one-third of those in the occupations of maids and houseman, and garbage collectors. Also in 1980, about one-fourth of all postal clerks and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants were Black. Conversely, Blacks were only 3 percent of all the experienced physicians, lawyers, and engineers; 6 percent of the clergy, judges, and computer programmers; and 4 percent of managers and administrators.

Blacks were well represented in occupations such as mail carriers—postal service (12 percent), painters – construction and maintenance (10 percent), metalworking and plastics working machine operators (10 percent), and police and detectives (11 percent) (table 3).

Table 3. **Occupation of the Black Population in the Experienced Civilian Labor Force in the United States, by Sex: 1980**

Selected occupations	Total population	Black population				Ratio men/women
		Both sexes	Percent of total	Men	Women	
Civilian labor force	104,449,817	10,582,436	10.1	5,330,792	5,251,644	1.02
Managerial and professional specialty	22,653,658	1,378,121	6.1	573,688	804,433	.71
Managers and administrators, n.e.c., salaried	4,658,661	190,305	4.1	113,618	76,687	1.48
Management related	2,617,332	161,919	6.2	75,395	86,524	.87
Engineers	1,400 973	36,016	2.6	31,499	4,517	6.97
Physicians	433,255	13,509	3.1	10,264	3,245	3.16
Registered nurses	1,285,299	97,023	7.5	5,489	91,534	.06
Teachers, postsecondary	637,149	31,103	4.9	15,507	15,596	.99
Teachers, except postsecondary	3,722,120	366,032	9.8	77,156	288,876	.27
Social workers	459,984	88,512	19.2	26,965	61,547	.44
Clergy	283,044	16,195	5.7	15,230	965	15.78
Lawyers	501,834	13,594	2.7	9,322	4,272	2.18
Judges	27,845	1,683	6.0	1,162	521	2.23
Technical, sales, and administrative support	30,883,578	2,554,108	8.3	770,187	1,783,921	.43
Licensed practical nurses	435,176	78,640	18.1	2,942	75,698	.04
Computer programmers	317,673	17,987	5.7	10,053	7,934	1.27
Sales representatives, finance and business services	1,866,382	62,688	3.4	36,781	25,907	1.42
Sales representatives, commodities, except retail	1,301,246	32,957	2.5	24,326	8,631	2.82
Sales workers, retail and personal services	5,499,267	381,012	6.9	103,512	277,500	.37
Supervisors, administrative support	1,078,173	100,795	9.3	47,726	53,069	.90
Computer operators	395,547	46,722	11.8	18,681	28,041	.67
Secretaries	3,999,222	231,908	5.8	4,356	227,552	.02
Typists	740,049	118,275	16.0	4,592	113,683	.04
Information clerks	954,328	89,367	9.4	15,565	73,802	.21
Records processing occupations, except financial	1,017,645	136,567	13.4	29,583	106,984	.28
Financial records processing	2,339,398	121,956	5.2	19,709	102,247	.19
Telephone operators	306,360	44,521	14.5	4,119	40,402	.10
Postal clerks, except mail carriers	273,152	68,531	25.1	35,758	32,773	1.09
Mail carriers, postal service	260,574	30,318	11.6	26,393	3,925	6.72
Material recording, scheduling, and distributing clerks, n.e.c.	1,761,685	210,369	11.9	139,717	70,652	1.98
General office clerks	1,736,613	223,769	12.9	42,097	181,672	.23
Data-entry keyers	394,815	65,713	16.6	4,826	60,887	.08

Table 3. **Occupation of the Black Population in the Experienced Civilian Labor Force in the United States, by Sex: 1980**—Con.

Selected occupations	Total population	Black population				Ratio men/women
		Both sexes	Percent of total	Men	Women	
Services	13,606,074	2,395,273	17.6	893,140	1,502,133	.59
Cooks, private household	11,821	5,687	48.1	537	5,150	.10
Housekeepers and butlers	69,020	26,119	37.8	881	25,238	.03
Private household cleaners and servants	383,888	206,032	53.7	7,790	198,242	.04
Firefighting and fire prevention	215,726	13,316	6.2	12,983	333	38.99
Police and detectives	567,679	60,104	10.6	50,312	9,792	5.14
Guards	662,315	112,798	17.0	89,546	23,252	3.85
Cooks, except short order	1,350,198	236,749	17.5	83,292	153,457	.54
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	1,378,118	377,891	27.4	50,333	327,558	.15
Maids and housemen	673,558	223,702	33.2	51,435	172,267	.30
Janitors and cleaners	2,130,157	470,270	22.1	330,116	140,154	2.36
Hairdressers and cosmetologists	559,254	38,068	6.8	4,445	33,623	.13
Child care workers, except private household	612,666	97,130	15.9	9,839	87,291	.11
Farming, forestry and fishing	3,032,264	212,717	7.0	180,208	32,509	5.54
Farm workers	887,098	94,417	10.6	75,506	18,911	3.99
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	412,615	53,043	12.9	49,153	3,890	12.64
Precision production, crafts, and repairs	13,554,527	931,563	6.9	810,170	121,393	6.67
Mechanics and repairers	3,982,515	261,017	6.6	243,168	17,849	13.62
Brickmasons and stonemasons, except apprentices	205,245	30,555	14.9	30,063	492	61.10
Carpenters, except apprentices	1,295,891	66,553	5.1	64,007	2,546	25.14
Electricians, except apprentices	606,952	30,160	5.0	28,448	1,712	16.62
Painters, construction and maintenance	422,470	41,482	9.8	38,767	2,715	14.28
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, except apprentices	489,644	33,141	6.8	32,175	966	33.31
Precision production	4,444,308	334,354	7.5	244,190	90,164	2.71

Table 3. **Occupation of the Black Population in the Experienced Civilian Labor Force in the United States, by Sex: 1980**—Con.

Selected occupations	Total population	Black population				Ratio men/women
		Both sexes	Percent of total	Men	Women	
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	19,987,975	2,889,105	14.5	2,008,338	880,767	2.28
Metalworking and plastic working machine operators	793,338	81,512	10.3	62,263	19,249	3.23
Textile, apparel, and furnishings machine operators	1,632,042	303,320	18.6	61,217	242,103	.25
Machine operators, assorted materials	3,236,384	511,449	15.8	341,395	170,054	2.01
Fabricators, assemblers, and hand working	2,632,135	362,328	13.8	214,536	147,792	1.45
Production inspectors, testers, samplers, and weighers	905,389	111,404	12.3	45,519	65,885	.69
Truck drivers, heavy	1,896,525	243,220	12.8	236,985	6,235	38.01
Bus drivers	386,334	74,713	19.3	52,061	22,652	2.30
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	188,593	42,575	22.6	38,601	3,974	9.71
Material moving equipment operators	1,251,670	156,556	12.5	145,914	10,642	13.71
Construction laborers	861,223	150,934	17.5	145,413	5,521	26.34
Garbage collectors	76,577	26,683	34.8	25,719	964	26.68
Laborers, except construction	1,400,358	261,534	18.7	203,743	57,811	3.52
Unemployed, no civilian work experience since 1975	731,741	221,549	30.3	95,061	126,488	.75

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population/EEO Special File.

OCCUPATIONAL DIFFERENCES

In 1980, more than 2 million (nearly 38 percent) of the 5.3 million Black men in the experienced civilian labor force were in the job category, "operators, fabricators, and laborers." Significant numbers of Black men with experience in this occupational category had skills in fields such as "machine operators – assorted materials" (341,000); "truck drivers – heavy" (237,000); "fabricators, assemblers, and handworking" occupations (215,000); and "laborers, except construction" (204,000).

About 17 percent of the experienced Black men were in "service" occupations followed by 15 percent in "precision production, craft, and repair"; 14 percent in "technical, sales, and administrative support"; and 11 percent in "managerial and professional specialty" occupations.

Of the 5.3 million Black women in the experienced civilian labor force in 1980, slightly more than one-third (34 percent) had skills in "technical, sales, and administrative support" occupations. One-half of these women were experienced as "sales workers," "secretaries," "general office clerks," "typists," or "records processing occupations."

In 1980, a high proportion of Black women were in service occupations. In fact, more than one-fourth (29 percent or 1.5 million) were in "service" occupations which included nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants (328,000); private household cleaners and servants (198,000); maids and housemen (172,000); cooks, except short order (153,000); and janitors and cleaners (140,000).

The vast majority of Black women experienced in managerial and professional occupations were in occupations traditionally occupied by Black women such as teachers, social workers, and nurses. However, substantial numbers were experienced in fields such as managers, administrators, and management-related occupations (table 3).

FARM POPULATION DECLINES

The 222,000 Blacks living on farms in 1981 represented 4 percent of the total farm population and was a sharp decline from 349,000 in 1978. In 1981, the Black total represented about a 67-percent drop from 1970, while the White total declined only 25 percent. Farm residents in both groups have declined steadily since 1920, when 49 percent of all Blacks and 27 percent of all Whites lived on farms. In 1981, the proportions of both Blacks and Whites living on farms had fallen to 1 and 3 percent, respectively. Factors related to the drop among Black farm residents include a sluggish economy, an older age structure of Black farm operators, smaller acreage, and decreased produce sales from farms operated by Blacks.

The median income of Black farm families in 1978, the most recent year for which income data were available, was about two-fifths ($8,610) that of White farm families ($19,670). Unemployment rates in 1981 for Blacks and Whites on farms were 11.4 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively, while the proportion of Black farm residents in poverty was about double that of Whites (30.2 percent versus 16.5 percent).

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Between 1970 and 1981, the number of Black persons 3 to 34 years old attending school increased by approximately one-half million, from 7.8 to 8.4 million. Enrollment for Blacks increased from 1970 to 1977, but has declined since 1977. However, enrollment has dropped since 1970 for Whites falling from 51.7 million in 1970 to 48.2 million in 1981. The decline for both Blacks and Whites reflect decreases in the population of elementary and high school ages, resulting from a decline in the number of births.

In recent years, the gap in school attendance rates between Blacks and Whites has been eliminated, partially as a result of compulsory attendance laws for persons of elementary and secondary school ages. In 1981, for example, school enrollment rates for Blacks and Whites of the compulsory attendance ages—7 to 15 year olds—were the same (99 percent).

About 1 million Black students 18 to 34 years old were enrolled in college in 1981, double the number enrolled in 1970. Most of the increase took place during the early 1970's. In 1981, Black enrollment in colleges constituted about 11 percent of the college population as compared to 7 percent in 1970. In 1981, the number of Black females enrolled in college (628,000) continued to outnumber Black males (505,000).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Between 1970 and 1982, improvement in educational attainment was evident at the high school level where the increase in the proportion of Blacks 25 to 34 years old who were high school graduates was twice that for Whites. However, Blacks still lagged behind Whites. Among Whites, the proportion of high school graduates increased during the decade from 76 to 87 percent; for Blacks, it increased from 53 to 79 percent (chart 6).

In 1970, Blacks in the 25 to 34 age group were much less likely than Whites (15 percent versus 31 percent) to have completed at least 1 year of college. By 1982, the disparity had been narrowed significantly—36 percent for Blacks compared to 46 percent for Whites.

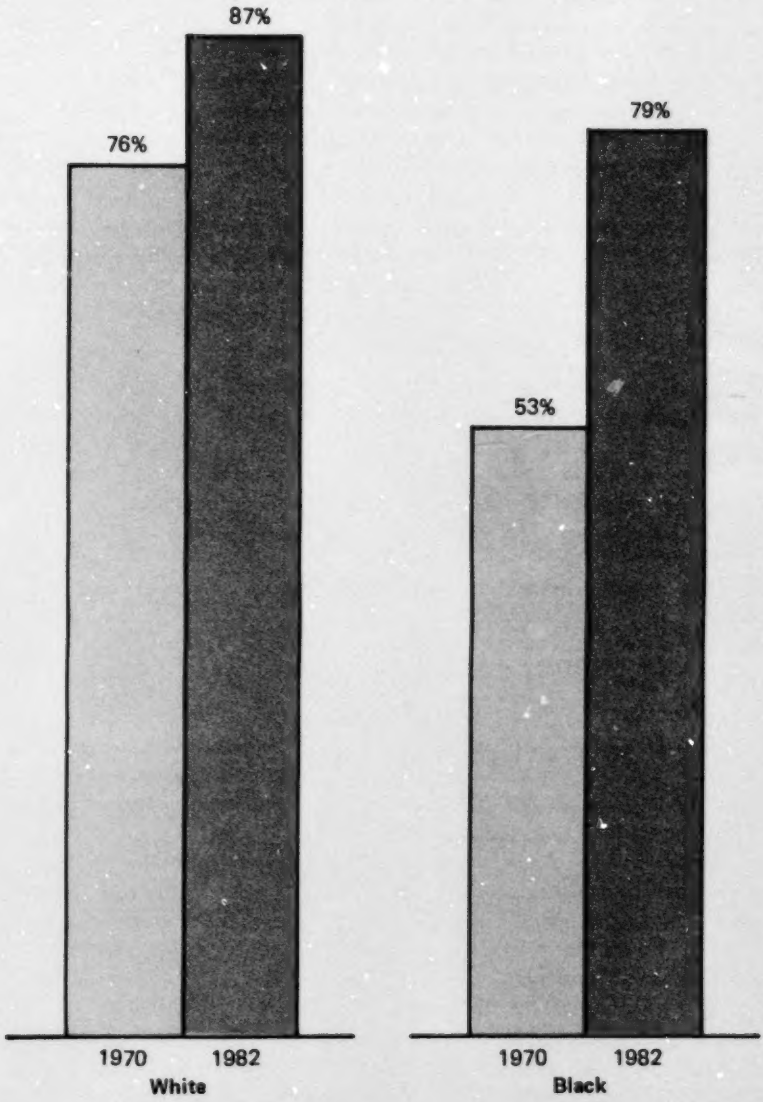
In 1982, the proportion of Blacks who had completed 4 years or more of college was about one-half the proportion of Whites who completed the same level, 13 percent and 25 percent, respectively. In 1970, the proportion for Blacks was about one-third the proportion for Whites (6 percent compared to 17 percent).

FEMALE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDERS

Families maintained by Black women increased during the decade. In 1970, about 28 percent of the 4.9 million Black families were maintained by women. By 1982, however, almost 41 percent of the 6.4 million Black families were maintained by a woman. The comparable percentages for Whites during this period increased from only 9 percent to 12 percent. In 1982, the majority of Black families were still maintained by married-couples. However, since 1970,

CHART 6.

Percent High School Graduates for Persons 25 to 34 Years Old by Race: 1970 and 1982



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

the percentage of all Black families maintained by married couples has declined from 68 to 55 percent (chart 7).

Among Black women in 1982 who maintained families, 32 percent had never married, compared to 11 percent for White families maintained by a woman.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN

As a consequence of the above changes, the number of Black children living with both parents dropped sharply between 1970 and 1982 while the percentage of Black children living in one-parent situations increased from 32 to 49 percent. About 8 percent of the children lived with neither parent in 1982, but in most cases resided with another relative. White children living with one parent also increased, doubling from 9 percent in 1970 to 17 percent in 1982. Still, 81 percent of White children lived with both parents in 1982, compared with 42 percent of Black children.

Black children constituted just 15 percent of all children under 18 years of age in 1982, but represented 34 percent of all children living with only one parent.

INCREASED DIVORCE RATIO

In 1982, the divorce ratio was highest for Blacks, particularly women. This ratio is defined as the number of persons who are currently divorced per 1,000 married persons living with their spouses. In 1982, the combined divorce ratio for Black men and women (220 per 1,000) was about double that for White men and women (107 per 1,000). At this same time, the divorce ratio for Black women was 265 per 1,000. This represents a dramatic rise from 1970, when the divorce ratio for Black women stood at only 104 per every 1000 married couples. The divorce ratio among White women rose from 56 to 128 per 1,000 during this same period.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AND MORTALITY

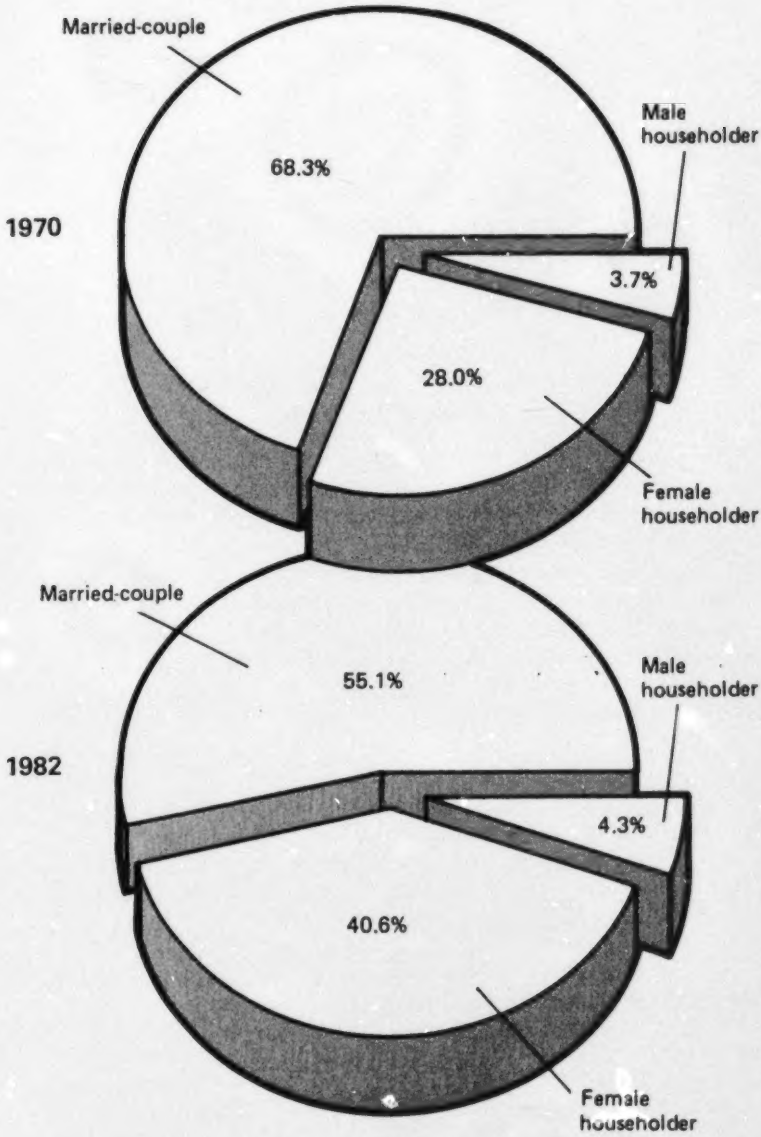
Blacks are now living longer, according to the most recent data from the National Center for Health Statistics. The life expectancy of Black males in 1981 averaged 66 years and Black females 75 years, doubling their rates of the early 1900's. But Whites still are expected to live about 4 years longer than Blacks– males to 71 and females to 79.

Blacks and Whites generally fared better in health care during the 1970's. The death rate from heart disease dropped 10 percent for Blacks and 7 percent for Whites. In contrast to the overall pattern, the picture for cancer was worse for Blacks, whose death rate for this disease went up 16 percent, while the White rate decreased 13 percent.

The homicide rate for Blacks dropped slightly between 1974 and 1979, from 39.7 to 37.9 deaths per 100,000 persons, but remained significantly higher than Whites, which increased from 5.8 to 6.5 over the same period. Black males experienced the highest homicide death rate (64.6) followed by Black females (13.8), White males (10.1) and White females (3.0).

CHART 7.

Black Families by Type: 1970 and 1982



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Suicide rates increased for both Blacks and Whites between 1970 and 1979, rising from 5.2 to 7.0 per 100,000 among Blacks and 12.4 to 13.1 per 100,000 among Whites. White males recorded the highest suicide rate (20.0 per 100,000), followed by Black males (11.6), White females (6.6), and Black females (2.8).

FERTILITY RATES AND BIRTH EXPECTATIONS

Substantial declines were recorded in the total fertility rates[2] of both Black and White females during the decade. The fertility level for Black females declined 27 percent, from 3.1 births per woman in 1970 to 2.3 per woman in 1980. Among White women, the decline was also 27 percent, but from 2.4 births per woman to 1.7 births per woman during the same period (chart 8).

The overall level of childbearing was considerably higher among Black women than White women at all ages, with the magnitude of the Black-White fertility differential being the greatest at the youngest ages.

According to 1980 vital statistics data, Black women 18 and 19 years old had a fertility rate of 139 births per 1,000, about two times the rate of White women of a similar age, 72 per 1,000.

OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS INCREASE

The proportion of births occurring to unmarried mothers increased during the decade for both Black and White women, in part due to declines in births to married women. In 1980, when data were last compiled, more than one-half of the births to Black women (55 percent) occurred out-of-wedlock, up from 38 percent in 1970. The corresponding proportion for White women increased from 6.0 to 11.0 percent during the same period (chart 9).

In contrast to the pattern noted above, the nonmarital fertility rate[3] for Black women declined from 96 births per 1,000 unmarried women 15 to 44 years old in 1970 to 83 per 1,000 in 1980. The rate for White women increased from 14 to 18 per 1,000 during the same period.

HOUSING OWNERSHIP

The number of owner-occupied housing units with a Black householder rose sharply, from 2.6 million in 1970 to 3.7 million in 1980, a 45-percent increase. In comparison, owner-occupied housing units with a White householder increased only 26 percent during the same period, from 37.0 million to 46.7 million. Renter-occupied housing units among Blacks rose 29 percent during the last decade, from 3.6 million to 4.7 million. Among Whites, the number of renter-occupied housing units was up 13 percent.

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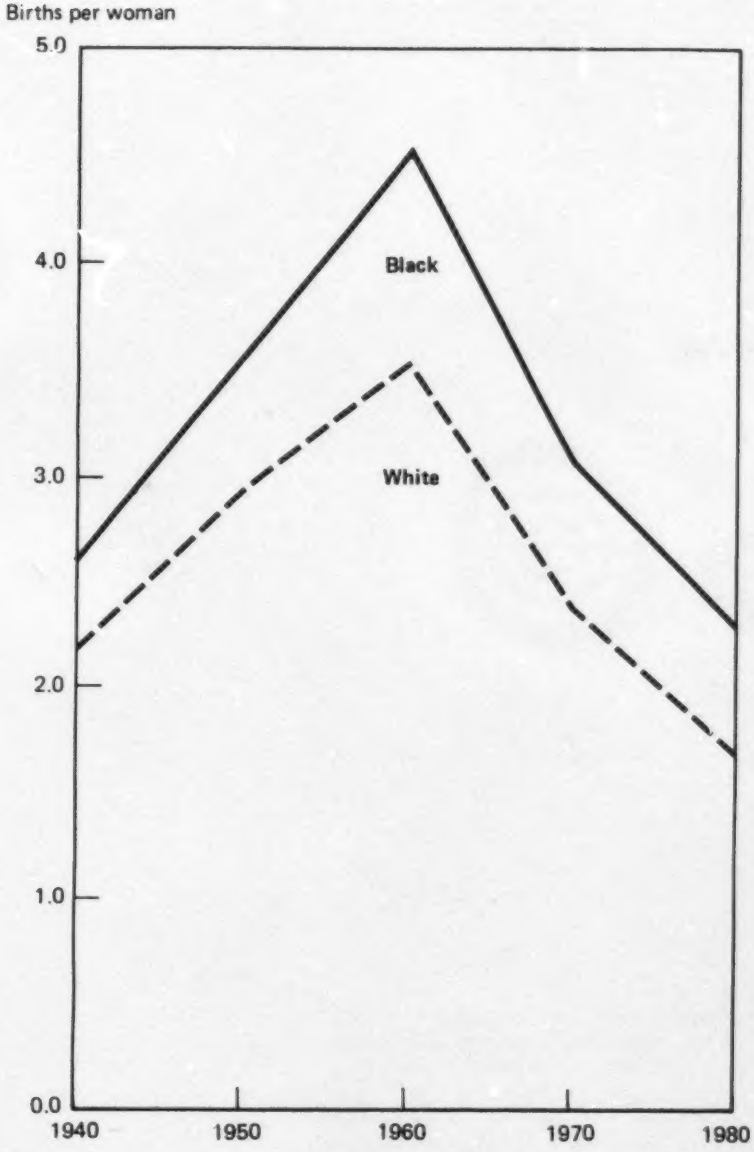
[2] The average number of children that would be born to a group of women if the births followed a given set of age-specific birth rates and if the entire group lived through the childbearing age.

[3] Rate computed by relating total nonmarital births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women 15 to 44 years old.

CHART 8.

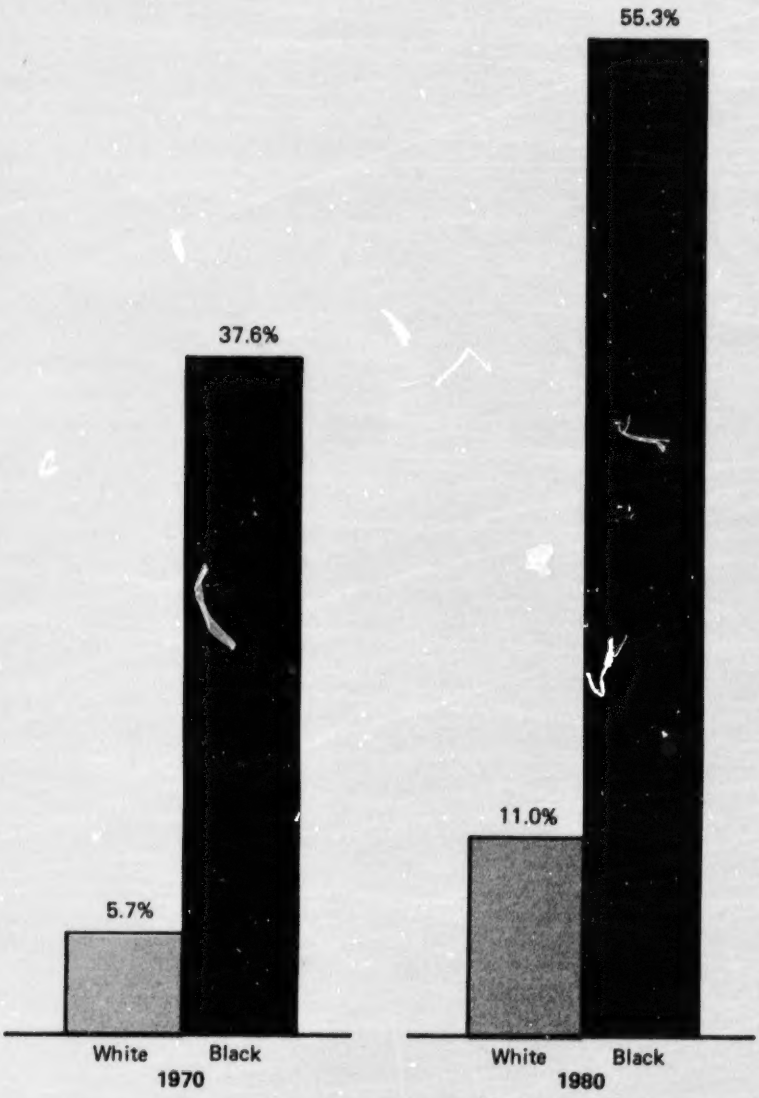
Total Fertility Rates by Race: 1940 to 1980



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

CHART 9.

Percent of Births Born Out of Wedlock by Race: 1970 and 1980



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Although the number of Black owner-occupied households increased at a much faster rate than White households from 1970 to 1980, the home ownership rate for Black households is still less than that for Whites. In 1980, the owner-occupancy rate was 44 percent for Black households compared to 68 percent for White households. In 1970, the comparable rates were 42 percent and 65 percent.

The 1980 median value of Black single-family owner-occupied housing units was $27,000 compared to $48,600 for Whites. The median monthly rent paid in renter-occupied housing for Black households in 1980 was $156 compared to $208 for White households.

The number of Black-occupied housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities (hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower for exclusive use) dropped sharply, from 1.0 million in 1970 to 459,000 in 1980, a 56-percent decrease. Even with this decline, the percent of Black-occupied housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities was still higher than the comparable figure for White-occupied housing units—about 5 percent for Blacks compared to 1 percent for Whites.

VOTING AGE POPULATION AND VOTER TURNOUT

Registration of Blacks for the 1982 Congressional elections totaled 10.4 million persons: 7.6 million or 73 percent of those registered reported voting compared to 76 percent of registered Whites. The 1982 overall voter participation rate (the number voting divided by the number of voting age persons) for Blacks was 43 percent while that of Whites was 50 percent.

During the 1970's, the number of voting age Blacks rose 31 percent, from 13 million at the beginning of the decade to more than 17 million in 1980. The voting age White population rose from 119 million to 138 million, an increase of 17 percent.

According to the 1980 census, four States had a Black voting age population of 1 million or more. New York had the most, followed by California, Texas, and Illinois.

High proportions of Blacks in the population of voting age were found in the District of Columbia (66 percent) and eight States—Mississippi (31 percent), South Carolina and Louisiana (each 27 percent), Georgia (24 percent), Alabama (23 percent), Maryland (21 percent), North Carolina (20 percent), and Virginia (17 percent). The majority of the Black voting age population (53 percent) continued to live in the South.

MILITARY SERVICE

The proportion of Blacks in the Armed Forces increased from 11 percent (257,000) in 1972 to 20 percent (415,000) in 1982. Black women in the Armed Forces totaled 50,000 or 12 percent of all Black Armed Forces personnel, in 1982. Blacks now represent about 29 percent of the Army's total complement of about 774,000 and 32 percent of its enlisted personnel. Also in 1982, about 39,000 Blacks were in the Marines (20 percent), 87,000 in the Air Force (15 percent), and 63,000 in the Navy (11 percent).

Black military enlistees registered sharply improved education levels over the last few years. In 1981, 90 percent of Blacks entering military service for the first time were high school graduates, compared to 65 percent in 1972. A relatively greater percentage of Blacks with high school diplomas than Whites with high school diplomas entered active duty with one of the four services each year since the mid-1970's. In all of the Department of Defense, almost 9 out of 10 Black recruits during 1981 were high school graduates compared to about 8 out of 10 White recruits.

The Armed Forces had 17,000 Black officers at the end of 1982, more than doubling the 1972 total of 8,000 and comprising 6 percent of all officers. About one-half (9,000) of these Black officers were in the Army.

According to the 1982 figures, in the total Armed Forces, Black generals and flag officers totaled 38 out of about 1,000 or 4 percent including one Army general holding a four-star rank. In 1982, Black officers were only about 3 percent of each of these groups—colonels and naval captains; lieutenant colonels and commanders; and majors and lieutenant commanders. However, Black officers were more likely to be found in the ranks of captains and naval lieutenants (7 percent); first lieutenants and lieutenant junior grades (9 percent); second lieutenants and ensigns (7 percent); and warrant officers (6 percent).

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

Source of data—This report includes data from the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and the U.S. Department of Defense. The Census Bureau data, which cover a wide range of topics, were collected primarily in the 1980 Census of Population and in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The BLS data on labor force are from the CPS; the NCHS data on vital statistics and mortality are from its registration system; and the data from the Department of Defense are from administrative records.

The estimation procedure used for the monthly CPS data involved the inflation or weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from decennial censuses; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. The estimation procedure used for 1980 through 1982 data utilized independent estimates based on the 1980 Decennial Census; 1970 through 1979 data utilized independent estimates based on the 1970 Decennial Census. This change in independent estimates had relatively little impact on summary measures such as means, medians, and percent distribution, but did have a significant impact on levels. For example, use of the 1980 based population controls resulted in about a 2-percent increase in the civilian noninstitutional population and in the number of families and households. Thus, estimates of levels for 1980 and later will differ from those for earlier years by more than what could be attributed to actual changes in the population. These differences could be disproportionately greater for certain population subgroups than for the total population.

Reliability of the estimates—Since the CPS estimates were based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey—sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors provided in the reports primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling errors. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The full extent of nonsampling error is unknown. The sampling errors for the CPS data can be obtained from the Current Population Reports cited in the References.

Comparability with other data—Data obtained from the CPS and other governmental sources are not entirely comparable. This is due largely to differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey procedures. This is an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing results among these different sources.

Nonsampling variability—Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness to provide correct information on the part of respondents, inability to recall information, errors made in collection such as in recording or coding the data, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, and failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

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